

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) welcomes the opportunity to input to the Written Questions issued on the 3 April 2024. Please note that we request views from the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) and the response provided below is sent on behalf of both UKHSA and OHID.

We note that the Examining Authority has posed 2 questions for UKHSA to respond to that fall under the category "Major Hazards and Accidents."

The first question (Question 1.1.20) that falls under this category is directed at both the Applicant and UKHSA:

Can it be confirmed that the requirements of the UK Health Security Agency [APP-059, Table 17-4] have been fully met and that the Environmental Statement (ES) complies with the relevant Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations?

We confirm our response to the Examining Authority on this matter as follows:

The UKHSA has set out guidance and provided written responses for the applicant to consider during the planning consultation process. With respect to whether the proposed ES complies with the relevant EIA regulations, we defer to the Examining Authority (ExA) to make that determination.

The Examining Authority has also requested a response from UKHSA with regards to the second question (question 1.1.25) under the same category:

With regards to potential major hazards and accidents [APP-061] can you confirm whether or not the Applicant has done enough to ensure that all risks are managed and mitigated to a point where they are as low as reasonably practical?

We confirm our response to the Examining Authority on this matter as follows:

The UKHSA cannot determine what constitutes "As Low as Reasonably Practicable" (ALARP) under major accident hazards legislation as this matter is outside the agency's remit. We defer to the relevant regulatory body, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), to comment on this matter.